

REMARKS

In the Final Official Action dated January 10, 2003, the Examiner raised a single rejection of the claims under consideration under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner maintained that the phrase "at a temperature lower than the melting temperature of the water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound and equal to or higher than the melting temperature of the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin" was not described in the specification in a manner defined by the first paragraph of §112.

Although applicants do not necessarily agree with the assessment by the Examiner for at least the reasons set in the response dated April 10, 2003, each of the independent claims has been amended to delete the quoted phrase at issue. Accordingly, since the amendments to the claims obviates the sole rejection set forth in the Final Action, applicants respectfully submit that entry of the Amendment and allowance of the present application are in order.¹

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: _____

Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: June 5, 2003

¹ As to claims 20 and 21, applicants respectfully request rejoinder pursuant to the provisions of MPEP §821.04.